

CAMBRIA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

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October 2, 2014

Zaffar Eusuff
California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Financial Assistance Branch
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

Re: Reconsideration of Cambria Community Services District Proposition 84 Grant Fund Award

Dear Mr. Eussuf:

Thank you for your efforts in expediting the appropriation for drought relief funds via the Proposition 84 Integrated Regional Water Management Plan grant process. This letter is a follow up to the verbal comments I provided during your September 29, 2014 meeting. As I mentioned, the CCSD has pulled out all the stops in addressing our water shortage emergency. As a result, the community has reduced water use by over 40 percent, while also constructing a \$9,000,000 emergency water supply project. Funding for a portion of this project (\$3.75 million) was part of the San Luis Obispo County IRWM grant application, which to date, had been disqualified due to CASGEM compliance concerns.

In reflecting on the CASGEM disqualification, we are first hopeful that the DWR and San Luis Obispo County can resolve any remaining concerns to meet CASGEM compliance requirements. In addition, any reversal of the earlier disqualification should allow for our project to be funded this year. We also want to note that our local groundwater basins have an overall CASGEM priority ranking of "Very Low," and are not hydraulically connected to the three High and Medium priority basins within the County, which were cause of the disqualification. The attached mark-up from the CSAGEM web site shows where our groundwater basins (San Simeon Valley, No. 3-35, and Santa Rosa Valley, No. 3-36) are spatially located in comparison to the three priority basins. We also want to add, that we routinely measure well elevations two times per month and make this data available to the public. Therefore, we could surely provide our well elevation data to the CASGEM system. In the event the County's CSAGEM cannot be qualified in time for grant award, we then ask that partial grant funding be allowed to the San Luis Obispo County IRWM grant application to include the CCSD project.

Because the Central Coast area was ranked number 3 out of 11 State regions in terms of drought impacts/need (Slide 10 of September 29, 2014 DWR presentation), we further recommend adjusting the draft 2014 allocation schedule to include our project. To avoid an unprecedented health and safety crisis this winter, the CCSD had to take decisive action earlier this year to complete its emergency water supply project following the Governor's drought declaration. Our request for \$3.75 million in State funding is needed to defray a portion of the project cost and provide much-needed budgetary relief. As I mentioned briefly on September 29, 2014, the CCSD also has numerous infrastructure needs that go beyond the current emergency project, which remain unfunded. Because the cost of our emergency water supply project is being borne by our customers through a sizable rate increase, it may be difficult for many of our rate payers to shoulder any future rate increases.

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In closing, we greatly appreciate the State's efforts in expediting Proposition 84 fund, and for your time in considering this request. Should you have any questions or need any additional supporting information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert C. Gresens".

Robert C. Gresens, P.E.
District Engineer
Cambria Community Services District

Attachments (1)

CC: CCSD Board of Directors
Jerry Gruber, CCSD General Manager
Timothy Carmel, CCSD Legal Counsel
Assemblyman Katcho Achadjian
Senator Monning
Ken Harris RWQCB Executive Officer
Kurt Souza, Division of Drinking Water
Bruce Gibson San Luis Obispo County Supervisor
Dave Flynn, San Luis Obispo County, Department of Public Works Interim Director
Ron Alsop, County Offices of Emergency Services
Peter Crase, State Operations Center

Attachment to October 2, 2014 Letter from Cambria Community Services District to Mr. Zaffar Eusuff, Department of Water Resources

